

Testimony in support of SB-991, **An Act Concerning Medicaid Reimbursement for Community Health Workers**

Dear Sen. Lesser, Rep. Gilchrest and distinguished members of the Human Services Committee,

I am submitting this testimony in support of S.B. 991, An Act Concerning Medicaid Reimbursement for Community Health Workers.

According to the [Kaiser Family Foundation](#), some seven million nonelderly who are eligible for Medicare or CHIP "remain uninsured due to lack of knowledge of coverage options, difficulty signing up, or other reasons."

That's where Community Health Workers come in. CHWs help vulnerable people access the healthcare benefits to which they are entitled, offering a broad set of benefits, including:

- Helping people navigate our complex health care system,
- Reducing the gaps in the equity of healthcare enjoyed by different groups, helping us to improve racial equity and economic justice,
- Improving individuals' ability to manage their own health,
- Providing emotional support during the difficult times that often accompany serious healthcare issues.

Connecticut should join the [25 other states](#) that fund CHWs using Medicaid funding. The state should also ensure that CHWs can earn a living wage. No one providing such an essential service should have to supplement their income through other means.

As your Committee considers SB-991, please keep in mind that investing in CHWs is fiscally sound. One study [showed](#) an ROI of 4:1 by funding a CHW program.

I urge you to favorably report SB-991 out of your Committee.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Perloe
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